

THIRTY YEARS WAR-BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Thirty Years' War began as a conflict between the Catholic and Lutheran (Protestant) princes of Germany over succession of the title of Holy Roman Emperor. It waged in various forms for three decades, largely destroying Germany in the process. By the end of the conflict, international power politics had largely replaced religious divisions as the basis for alliances, with Catholic France and Lutheran Sweden allied against the Catholic Hapsburgs of Spain and their German allies. The war ended in a series of treaties known collectively as the **Peace (Treaty) of Westphalia**, which effectively ended the political power of the Holy Roman Emperor, hastened Spain's decline as a world power, and extended religious tolerance in Germany to include Calvinists as well as Lutherans and Catholics.

Richelieu's role- He wanted to destroy the French Protestants called Huguenots. The success against the Huguenots did a great deal to establish Richelieu in the eyes of all those involved as powerful. Any other region in France that might have dallied with granting greater religious freedom now had an example of what could happen to you if you dared to challenge Richelieu. He showed France was a player in Europe.

